

Plumas-Sierra Noxious WEEDS Management Group

“We Eradicate Exotic and Detrimental Species”

Notes of March 12th 2003 Meeting

In attendance:

Joel Allen
California Department of Transportation

Alan Bower
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Karl Bishop
Plumas-Sierra Agriculture Department

Linda Conrad
Plumas-Sierra Agriculture Department

Bob Farnworth

Gail Frazier
Plumas-Sierra Agriculture Department

Holly George
University of California Cooperative Extension

Tim Gibson
Plumas-Sierra Agriculture Department

Robert Katz
United States Forest Service, Oroville

Carri Pirosko
California Department of Food & Agriculture

Duane Scheurer
California Department of Transportation

Erick Walker
United States Forest Service, Carson Ranger District

Karl called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. at the Plumas-Sierra Department of Agriculture's Boardroom, 208 Fairgrounds Road, Quincy, California. The meeting notes of January 14th, 2003 were approved with no corrections or additions.

SB1740 Project Updates

YST Control on Private Lands Cooperative Project

Tim announced that there would not be an YST workshop this year. He will be sending out letters to past participants to come in and get their paperwork and Operator ID #'s renewed. After the paperwork has been completed the Transline will be given to landowner. Other outreach will be done to reach landowners with YST that have not yet taken part in the program.

Perennial Pepperweed on Private Lands Cooperative Project

Tim announced that the TWT workshop is to be held on March 19th in Loyalton at the Community Center. Rob Wilson will be one of the presenters along with Frank Auglur a representative from Dupont to speak about *Telar*.

Reports/Plans

Tim reported he has sent in his year end reports to Sacramento regarding our weed management areas with summaries of our accomplishments and goals with this information directed to our State Legislators. Tim also sent the end of the quarter report for Senate Bill 1740 to CDFA. National Fish and Wildlife required a report that has been completed and submitted. Copies of all three reports were given in packets to participants at today's meeting

Roadside

Linda told the group that she is pleased with the results she is getting with the Garlon basal treatment she has been using. Some results are already being seen in some of the smaller plants. She has completed the 3.5-mile area on Ridge Rd. in Yuba County with little resistance from the public. Some concerned citizens stopped with some comments and questions. Linda has turned her attention to YST but continues to carry two tanks in her truck to treat both Scotch Broom and Yellow Star Thistle. Small rosettes have been spotted and sprayed in Indian Valley, Portola and Blairsden. Both Karl and Linda agree that the YST in Plumas County and Sierra County are looking promising. Some discussion came up in regards to making the public more aware of current weed problems particularly TWT in Sierra Valley. The idea was brought up of possibly putting flyers into Sierraville Water District bills or posting notices at the Post Offices.

2003 Strategic Plan

Karl is requesting that members of our group go through the old Strategic Plan from 2001 then send along any comments or concerns. Karl also asked members to plan to approve the document at the next meeting. Discussion will also take place at that time.

PNF Noxious Weed Treatment Proposed Action

Chris was unable to attend meeting but spoke to Karl and stated that the draft had been submitted to his superiors for approval. Chris is hoping there will be some money for this project from the budget, which is expected to be released soon. Karl commented that Tahoe National Forest approval took approximately 3 months and hopefully approval from PNF will come soon.

Scotch Broom Control Efforts on Ridge Road with Yuba Co. Fire Safe Council

Bill Morrison from Sierra Pacific was unable to attend meeting. Bill relayed through Tim that he has been in contact with the Fire Safe Council in Yuba County. The council is aware of the Scotch Broom infestation along the stretch of Hwy 49 from Yuba Co. line to the Sierra Co. line. Bill has agreed to be a go between and to help with the weed problem along Ridge road. Karl discussed with the group that once the Scotch Broom has been killed it still represents a fire hazard. Tim assured the group he would keep in contact with Bill and encourage the mastication or removal of the dead brush.

Plumas County Picnic

This year's county picnic will be held on June 7th. Linda and Gail are going to organize. Some discussion took place with the group in regards to the materials for the booth and volunteers who will work in the booth.

Renewal of P.S.WEEDS Memorandum of Understanding

Tim and Karl are to discuss and review this issue. Karl asked that if anyone has any additional information please send it along to be used in the revision. This subject will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Additional Agenda Items

Karl announced that the TWT brochure is going to print and heavier paper will be used this time. Cal-Trans is helping with the printing cost. The next brochure to be worked on will cover Spotted Knapweed.

Karl invited the group to look at the draft for Weed Free Forage MOU. Some comments have been received but have not been incorporated into the draft. Some Ag Commissioners are opposed to post harvest or stack inspections. This item will most likely be modified at some point. Karl reminded everyone this is just a rough draft, emphasis on rough, and that any written comments are sent to him. Some discussion took place regarding growers of hay in Sierra Valley being able to get their hay certified for sale in Nevada. Karl assured the group that if he is asked to certify hay for Nevada he is more than happy to do so. Erick Walker told the group that Region 4 has gone to weed free hay. Copies of the closure order were made available to group for review. The topic of specs for washing equipment being used in National Forest came up. Karl suggested this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Karl shared an e-mail he received from Wendy West in regards to Federal legislation that is currently taking place having to do with funding for local weed management areas. He requested letters be sent to Representative Doolittle in support of this legislation.

Karl brought up the personnel changes that have taken place within the Department of Food and Ag. Integrated Pest Control Regional Districts. Carri Pirosko is now overseeing Plumas and Sierra Counties. Carri told group that Ed Finley and she are stable for now however they might be more cutbacks in the future. Carri made her cell phone number available for the P.S. WEEDS group members the number is (530) 545-9119 and encouraged everyone to feel free to call her with any questions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st.2003 at 10:00a.m. It will be held at the Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture Conference Room, 208 Fairgrounds Rd, in Quincy, California. Agenda items may be submitted in advance or on the day of the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 am.

Meeting notes submitted by Linda Conrad, Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture